

Panel 4 – Canadian Statement on The Second International Decade for People of African Descent: Expectations and Challenges

Madame Chair:

In 2018, Canada endorsed the International Decade for People of African Descent because we knew that we needed to take urgent action to address the unique challenges faced by Black communities in Canada and around the world.

The Decade has been an important roadmap to help Canada recognize the distinct rights, culture, and accomplishments of the more than 1.5 million Black people who call Canada home.

Since endorsing the Decade, we have committed \$860 million dollars to launch a number of new initiatives that are helping improve the well-being of people of African descent in Canada. We have worked in partnership with the community to deliver Black made, Black led solutions on everything from social inclusion, fighting systemic racism, empowering entrepreneurs, reclaiming justice, and supporting better health outcomes.

And we have seen the enormous impact that these programs have had on Black Canadians. Work is also well underway to establish a National Institute for People of African Descent.

But still we know that more needs to be done to build a more inclusive Canada and world for people of African descent.

That is why, earlier this year, the Government of Canada announced that domestically, we will be extending our efforts under the Decade until 2028. This extension will help guide our continued support for to support Black communities from coast to coast to coast.

Let me be clear, our government is steadfast in our commitment to building a more equitable and inclusive future for Canadians of African Descent and all Black Canadians.

That is why we are proud to signal our intention to support the forum's call for a second decade.